Saturday, July 12, 2008 • Vol. 23 / No. 218 website: www.inquirer.net

Pierce Brosnan: There's only one Bond–Sean Connery
SAT. SPECIAL / F1

P7-M cash awaits 1st Filipino Olympic gold medalist
SPORTS / A22

Iran doctored missile launch photos, added 4th rocket, says expert
WORLD / A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Balanced News, Fearless Views

House probers to train guns on Sulpicio

By Norman Bordadora and Christian V. Esguerra

EXECUTIVES OF SULPICIO LINES INC. should not escape the hot seat when the House committees on transportation and on oversight resume their joint inquiry into the June 22 sinking of the MV Princess of the Stars, according to lawmakers.

HOUSE A4



EASY RIDERS FROM THE EDGE Speaking of ways to beat the high cost of commuting, here are two ways. Hop on a motorcycle or get on the ledge of an aging PNR coach and jump off upon reaching one's destination. About the latter, there's something to be said about the risk to life and limb. But then, commuters do get a free ride. It was so before the weekly spiral in fuel prices, and it is so today. Only a lot more.

Diesel, LPG prices up again

Rates take effect at 6 a.m. today

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER GIVING THE PUBLIC ITS FIRST TASTE OF a rollback in months, oil companies have hiked fuel prices yet again, this time those of diesel and kerosene by P1.50 a liter.

Liquefied petroleum gas prices also went up by P1 a kilogram.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Seaoil Phil., Eastern Petroleum Corp. and Unioil Petroleum Phil. will implement the new prices at 6 a.m. today.

An industry source attributed the price increase to the continuing rise of diesel prices in the world market, coupled with a stronger dollar.

The source said there will be "no movement for gasoline this weekend".

A number of oil firms last Thursday reduced gasoline prices by P1 a liter, due to small margins from the product that they said they were able to pass on to motorists in the form of lower pump prices.

But no such relief was possible for diesel as the international price of the product has continued to rise.

The source said it would be impossible at this point to give any reductions for diesel or even to leave prices as they are.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the regional benchmark Dubai crude

DIESEL A8

Baja legal woes pile up; graft raps filed

By Michael Lim Ubac

WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS, and it's pouring for Lauro Baja.

The legal problems of the former Philippine permanent representative to the United Nations, who has been sued for trafficking and forced labor by his ex-maid, are adding up.

He is facing another legal battle at the Office of the Ombudsman with charges ranging from graft to technical malversation.

The Presidential Anti-Graft Commission charged Baja on March 12 with graft for conducting the repair of the official residence of the Philippine Mission to the UN in New York without public bidding, failing to remit the proceeds of the mission's insurance claims, and hiring a "ghost" employee, PAGC Chair Constancia de Guzman confirmed on Thursday.

Reached for comment last

BAJA A15



HANG IN THERE After putting on a line that snakes from here to eternity, riders pushed the MRT train from Timog in Quezon City to Magallanes in Makati City, back to back, shoulder to shoulder, face to face but hopefully, not lips to lips. JOHN SORIANO

Prices of canned goods going up, says Trade chief

By Ronnel W. Domingo and Christine Avendaño

PRICES OF CANNED GOODS have risen by 25 centavos to 40 centavos because of the increase in the cost of tin can containers, according to Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila.

At the same time, Favila said producers of meat products, milk, sugar and flour gave their assurances that they would maintain prices at current levels, following a meeting yesterday.

PRICES A8

'Tribu' wins Youth Jury Prize at Paris film fest

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

"TRIBU" WON THE PRIX DE l'Avenir award or Youth Jury Prize at the 6th Paris Cinema International Film Festival which ends today.

"To be recognized in the city where cinema was born is immensely satisfying," Jim Libiran said, adding that the Prix de l'Avenir was given by a "jury of students and a film reviewer from the film magazine Positif."

As part of the prize, "Tribu" will be promoted for possible distribution in France, he said.

According to Libiran, director, Prix de l'Avenir means "Best of the Future." It is one of three awards given in the competition for feature films. The other awards are Prix du Jury and Prix du Public.

It is the only non-European film to win in the festival.

Stephen Walker's "Young @ Heart" won the Jury and Audience awards.

The Filipino film competed with films from France, Japan, China, Haiti, Mexico, Great Britain and Hungary-Germany.

The digital movie, which

TRIBU A15

Convents open doors to widows

By Kristine L. Alave

WITH YOUNG APPLICANTS getting scarce, religious congregations are opening their doors to older women—including widows.

Widows, preferably those with no bothersome children, are welcome to join the cloistered

CONVENTS A4

Where have all the protesters gone?

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon
Nikki Dizon and Jerome Aning

HUNGER IS KEEPING protesters away from the streets, according to a leader of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

As angry as they are with the government and want to express this through rallies and demonstrations, activists have to earn a living, said Bayan chair Carol Araullo.

"They will not go to the rallies because the fare is expensive. If they will not work, they will not earn. Even if they are suffering, they manage to stay

WHERE A4



ATTENTION ISAFP Security guards hold back demonstrators at Petron oil company's head office in Makati. They protest the relentless rise and rise of oil prices. ARNOLD ALMACEN

Filipina is 'bare-faced contessa,' lands in UK jail

A FILIPINO FRAUDSTER WHO lied about needing money to access her "staggeringly vast" wealth to obtain her victims' life savings has been jailed for five years in Britain, BBC News reported.

Elda Reguinas, 63, was born in the Philippines and first came to Britain 20 years ago.

Also known as the "Barefaced Contessa," Reguinas claimed she was an aristocrat worth "£300 followed by 41 noughts (zeroes)," making her a "tredecillionaire," the London Daily Mail reported.

The conwoman, who lived in a rented room in Dulwich, South London, was found guilty early this month at Southwark Crown Court of a string of fraud charges.

Judge Jeremy McMullen said she had netted £2.3 million (P207 million) and could face deportation to the Philippines.

Reguinas wove an elaborate fairytale of sunken ships, millions and golden nuggets to persuade dupes to help her release the first £250 million (P22.6 billion) installment of her fortune. They never saw their cash again.

She was given a two-year jail sentence in 1997 after trying to

FILIPINA A15



Just do it, Joe, say senators

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

JUST DO IT.

This was the advice of Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Panfilo Lacson and Alan Peter Cayetano to Rep. Jose de Venecia Jr., who continues to announce his plan to

JUST DO A15

Second FrontPage

MEGALOTTO 6/45

P4,558,622.40

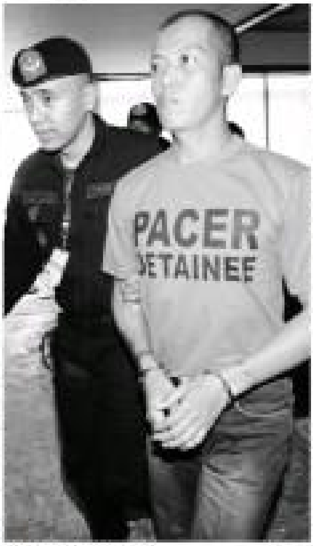
4 held for slay of pilot, driver

Police officer confesses, tags ex-vice mayor as mastermind

By Alcuin Papa, Marlon Aquino and Nancy Carvajal

POLICE HAVE ARRESTED FOUR SUSPECTS, including a former vice mayor of a Cavite town and a training director of the elite Philippine National Police (PNP) Special Action Force (SAF), for the kidnapping and murder of a retired pilot and his driver.





Business fight

Confession

Wife's petition

SSS funds won't be touched—Palace

By Michael Lim Ubac and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Invested like private funds

Heightened vigilance

Subic shabu burned

Ces' family holds key to ransom mystery

'Jubilant, happy'

Common story

Alcuin Papa

AFP asked to release sisters to mother

Against her will

'Enemy of the state'

Court orders DOJ to file kidnap raps vs Japanese

Seized at gunpoint

Usurped court's work

Correction

Prices of canned goods going up, says Trade chief

Rise in tin containers

To last for next 5 years

Confluence of factors

Pan de sal price stable

Root crops as alternative

DOE calls for lifestyle change in energy use

By Abigail L. Ho

WITH WORLD OIL PRICES HITTING record highs almost every day, the Department of Energy is calling on everyone to change their lifestyle and to use energy more efficiently.

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said there was no better time than now to use less energy as much as possible, and to always think green when there is an absolute need to use fuel or power.

"Oil is a political commodity. Unfortunately, we're not blessed with an abundant supply of oil or coal. These energy sources are not only very volatile, they are also not clean. We need to transition from these conventional sources of energy to cleaner sources of power," he said in a briefing.

The DOE is launching the Switch program next week in a bid to get people to do a paradigm shift in terms of energy use.

Switch program

The Switch program is a social mobilization and information advocacy campaign to demonstrate how ordinary Filipinos can save power and help fight climate change.

"It aims to accelerate the adoption of best energy practices that are simple but strategic, and to lay the institutional framework to sustain such practices," the DOE said.

To jump start the program, 16 cities and one municipality in Metro Manila will shift to efficient lighting systems starting July 16.

Alternative fuels

Apart from the switch from incandescent bulbs to compact fluorescent lamps, the Switch program also aims to promote a shift from petroleum-based fuels to alternative fuels such as biodiesel and bioethanol.

These alternative fuels, the DOE said, would not only ease the country's dependence on imported fossil fuels, but would also help improve the state of the environment.

In rural areas, the Switch program will focus on getting users of kerosene for lighting to shift to renewable energy sources, particularly solar.

The DOE, together with some private sector partners, has in place a rural electrification program that makes use of solar home systems to provide power to off-grid locations.

Since the price of solar power is still relatively high, these solar home systems are subsidized via government grants and private sector sponsorship.

At the local level, the Switch program aims to promote the development and use of renewable energy sources, such as wind and hydro, where feasible.

Reyes acting as spokesman for oil firms —Chiz

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SEN. FRANCIS "CHIZ" ESCUDERO YESTERDAY slammed Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes for acting like a virtual "spokesperson" of Petron, Shell and Chevron-Caltex instead of protecting the public interest in the face of the unabated increases in fuel pump prices.

"What is saddening is that our own Secretary of the Department of Energy has sounded like a spokesperson for the giant oil companies. They speak the same things and they just echo each other's thoughts," said Escudero in an interview with reporters.

Escudero was irked by Reyes' declaration that he favored a one-time large increase in oil prices instead of the current practice of piecemeal price adjustments.

"A one-time increase of P10 per liter? Ordinary Filipinos might not be able to shoulder that. If he thinks that this is good because it will jolt Filipinos to market realities, well, I have news for Secretary Reyes: the people have long been wide awake on these things," said Escudero. "What we need to wake up are people in government who are feigning sleep and who think that they must serve the interest of businessmen rather than the needy."

Serving the public

Escudero said Reyes should be reminded that he is in government to serve the public and not the three giant oil companies.

Escudero noted that it has been six months since Reyes was appointed to replace Raphael Lotilla.

He recalled that Reyes had declared in a press conference that he would scrutinize the pricing of oil companies and meet with players in the oil industry. "Up to now, I have not seen any results in any of their meetings that were supposed to push for a lowering instead of increasing oil prices," said Escudero.

Escudero said it was the responsibility of the DOE to confirm the oil companies' justifications for their price increases, particularly on whether the adjustments would not exceed the amount they need to recover from the increases in world crude oil prices.

"That is the only thing they can do under the Oil Deregulation Law. I just don't know if they are doing their job," said Escudero.

More typhoons seen as La Niña effects linger

[illegible]

Yap berates fishmongers over high prices

[illegible]

US travel advisory

[illegible]

Luz Garcia; 100

[illegible]

THE DAILY GOSPEL

[illegible]





UN, EU experts coming to inspect toxic cargo

House to 'train [its] guns on Sulpicio'

Convents open doors to widows



Diesel, kerosene, LPG prices up again

Malacañang defends Isafp mission to monitor unrest



Where have all the protesters . . .



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Nostalgic for Palparan

EDITORIAL



Because we allow it

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David



Questions raised on Ilocos Sur's adopted son

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod



How welcome are workers overseas?

SOCIAL CLIMATE



Mahar Mangahas

The stubborn one

YOUNG BLOOD

Michelle Ocampo Villafuerte

The many faces of the teacher

COMMENTARY

Ching Jorge

Girl at the bus station

Lynette Carpio

Sink or swim in the Philippines

WORLD VIEW



H. Harry L. Roque Jr.

Failure of the rule of law in the Philippines is to blame for the plight of the victims

For a Filipino Parents' Day

LETTERS

A journalist for the 21st century

Flawed views on GSIS' housing loans

Gov't assistance being used to prop up GMA's popularity

INQUIRER Visayas

E. Samar's biggest calamity: Bad roads

By Cyrain G. Cabuenas
Borongan City, Eastern Samar

THE PEOPLE OF EASTERN Samar are used to calamities. Strong typhoons, floods and even earthquakes are an inextricable part of their life.

[illegible]

Very deep craters

[illegible]



THE ROAD in Barangay Maypangdan, Borongan, Eastern Samar remains in a state of disrepair.



SOME residents plant banana stalks in the worst sections of the Eastern Samar highway in Maydolong town, 15 kilometers south of the City of Borongan to call the attention of the people concerned.

Christian group sends poor children to school

By Vicente Labro
Dulag, Leyte

EVERY TIME CLASSES OPEN, Allan Valdez would ask himself: What could have happened if he were not given the chance to go to school.

[illegible]



Across the NATION

Cebu traders most hurt by suspension on Sulpicio

Existing cargo shortage

Talk with GMA

Slow death

Food getting scarce in Cotabato as floodwaters continue rising

COTABATO CITY—THE SUPPLY OF FOOD FOR flood victims here is running out as floodwaters continue to rise, a city hall official said yesterday.



WHAT A WASTE

₱18-per-kg rice disappears from markets

4 kidnapped Basilan linemen released

NEWSBRIEFS

KORONADAL CITY

5.2 quake strikes; no tsunami alert

DIGOS CITY

Trike fare hike OKd

EVENTS

Ople center warns vs Clark trafficking

TAGUM CITY

Soldiers fire at van, wound 2 cops

No plane, ship fare hike–not yet

By Rio T. Olchondra

[illegible]

'Tribu' wins Youth Jury Prize

From page A1

[illegible]

Exporting love, care

[illegible]

Charlotte Rampling

[illegible]



REALITY CHECKS OUT Scene from "Tribu," about two rival Tondo gangs with their respective members playing dominoes.

Baja legal woes pile up; graft raps filed

From page A1

[illegible]

Other charges

[illegible]

'I'm the victim'

[illegible]

Tricked

[illegible]

Filipina is 'bare-faced contessa,' lands in UK jail

From page A1

[illegible]

Gold bullion

[illegible]

Guardians

[illegible]

Terrific memory

[illegible]

Humanitarian projects

[illegible]

Palace, Harrods

[illegible]

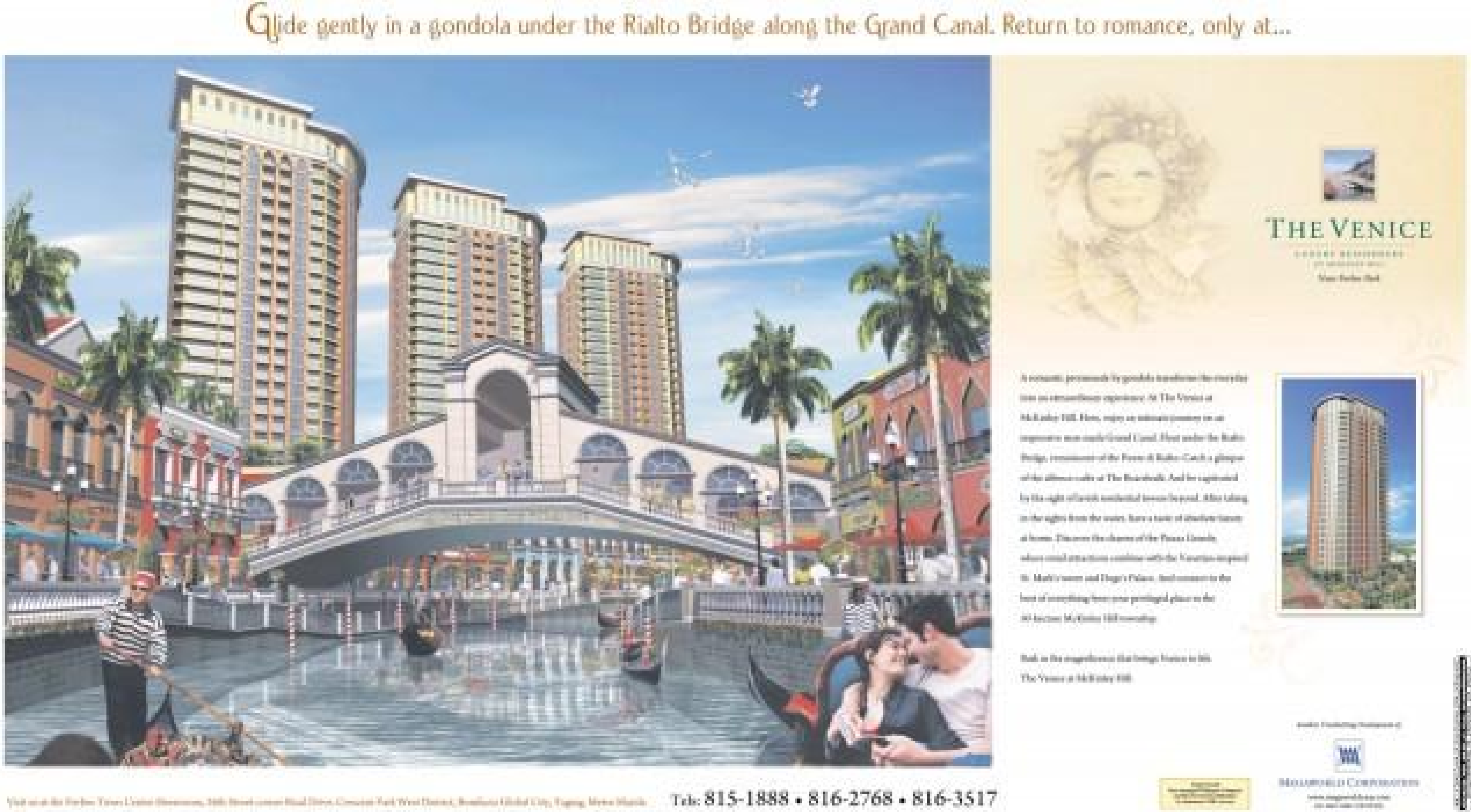
Guilty

[illegible]

Just do it, Joe, say senators

From page A1

[illegible]


Glide gently in a gondola under the Rialto Bridge along the Grand Canal. Return to romance, only at...
THE VENICE
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A plus Metro





2 injured in Taguig City bank heist

Robbers take P3M from armored van parked in mall

TWO SECURITY GUARDS WERE SERIOUSLY wounded late yesterday morning after robbers attacked an armored van carrying P3 million at the Market! Market! mall in Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.







'Fake' gasoline seized from Quezon City warehouse

2 injured . . .

Manila city gov't takes over Tondo slaughterhouse

MetroBriefs

2 suspected kidnap gang members killed

Quezon City nets P6.1B in tax revenues

DZRH marks 69th year on July 15

Neri's qualifications for new post at SSS

On Target



Ramon Tulfo

Kidney patient needs help

Sudan top leaders face arrest, war crimes trial

Sihanouk denounces Thai claims to 11th century temple as 'absolutely false'



WORLDBRIEFS

47 Afghan civilians killed in US-led strikes, says probe

Israel police to grill Olmert anew in corruption case

Japan grants permanent residency to US deserter

Indonesian who killed 42 in 'black magic' ritual executed

The WORLD

Iran doctored missile photo, added 4th rocket, says expert

Real or not, Iranian missile fire must stop, says US

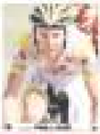
NEW YORK—AN IRANIAN PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING A cluster of missile launches was apparently altered to add a fourth missile lifting off from a desert range, a defense analyst said on Thursday.



Indonesia responsible for 1999 E. Timor atrocities, probe finds

NOTICE





WHAT'S INSIDE
- Kirchen grabs Tour yellow jersey /A23

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

26 days to the 29th Summer Olympics

Coke hires former Globetrotter

By Musong R. Castillo

Failed NBA bid

MVP race



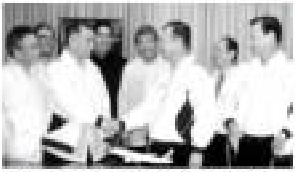
Knights keep slate clean, rip Dolphins /A22



Rose headlines NBA Madness

By Jasmine W. Payo





P7M awaits first Olympic gold winner

By Marc Anthony Reyes

Knights keep slate clean, rip Dolphins



Archers try to get back into groove vs Tams

Batangas nine goes for jugular against Cebu

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SPORTSWATCH

3 games open NCAA volley

LPC stagfest screening set

San Juan derby gets going



SMART SUPPORT

Cyna, Anya forge Pac-North title duel

Taguig trips Ilocos; Baguio wins

Milo Marathon Roxas leg fires off tomorrow

Kirchen grabs Tour yellow jersey

Italian Ricco noses out top foes, tops ride to mountaintop resort



RICCO

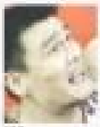
Pirates halt Yankees' four-game win run



COURSE RECORD

Creamer fires 60, leads Ohio golf tilt

China's US-beating strategy: Go small



YAO

Davis returns home, finds long-time friend 'missing'



Ford-Tuason team eyes race sweep



SPORTS

Bautista-Marquez go Aug. 30

Superfriends, Pasargad arrange title duel

Gomez draws with Paragua, gets GM norm



SEVEN-DAY LEADER: John Paul Gomez

Banal, Panamanian foe prefer puncher's gloves



BAZOOKA Banal

Barcial eyes 3rd straight

BUSINESS

Editor: Raul D. Marcelo • Assistant Editor: Dennis S. Mariano
Website: www.inquirer.net/business

BSP revising inflation forecast due to fare hikes

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

STOCK MARKET

Stocks close lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.5 percent lower yesterday on renewed concerns over the state of the US economy, dealers said.

The composite index shed 12.83 points to 2,437.96, after trading between 2,420.86 and 2,457.71. The all-shares index gave up 5.35 points to 1,544.74.

Forty-six stocks advanced, 63 declined and 34 were unchanged. Turnover rose to P1.04 billion from P1.00 billion on Thursday.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



Peso falters to 45.66 to $1 on inflation, oil worries

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY FALTERED ANEW ON VOLATILE OIL prices while the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said it would review its 2008 inflation forecast of 7-9 percent to factor in additional pressures from the new round of transport fare adjustments.

Renewed concerns over rising food and fuel prices pulled down the peso yesterday to close at 45.66 from Thursday's 45.57 to a dollar as global oil prices surged back to $142 a barrel due to heightened tensions in key oil producing countries Iran and Nigeria.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the central bank would assess the impact of the recent transport fare adjustments on monetary policy.

"The earlier adjustments were covered. This one, not yet. So we'll look at how it will impact (on inflation)," Tetangco told reporters yesterday.

Earlier this week, the government approved fare increases for public buses (12 percent), taxis (10.5 percent) and jeepneys (13 percent).

The BSP's policy-making Monetary Board is set to review the country's monetary policies on Thursday next week. During its last monetary policy-setting meeting in June, the central bank projected that inflation rate this year would average 7-9 percent, much higher than its maximum target of 5 percent.

Tetangco also sees the peso firming up in the fourth quarter, a strong season for the

BSP REVISING/B2

IN THIS ISSUE



Koreans buying up condos in Fort Boni

Megaworld books P7.5B in sales

Empire East hikes stake in affiliate

SM Investments raises $350M from bond issue

BSP revising inflation . . .

Stocks close lower



SCIENCE/HEALTH

BFAD, docs asked to be vigilant on generic drugs



A STUDY PRESENTED DURing last year's 12th meeting on Recent Developments in Pharmaceutical Analysis (www.rdpa2007.com) held in Italy painted an alarming picture of generic drugs—the existence of those that do not measure up to the innovator product that they are supposed to duplicate.

Identical

Conventions

A German problem of 'getting it up'

MEDICAL FILES

Lengthy explanation

Treatment mainstay

Unusual side effect

Research saves lives

CAREPLUS



4 new research centers

Achievements

Passion for excellence

Freshness and light

DISCOVER



A better way

Sets of experiments

Inquirer, PSBank ink car loan MOA

Dandruff: it's a man's woe

Polk ventures into audio mobility



Cosmetic surgery group marks 34th year

Finance shelves sale of 100-ha FTI property

Gov't to focus on PNOC-EC, Petron stake

BI 6-mo income surpasses P1B

Palinpinon auction postponed to Nov.

Gov't scraps bidding of regular T-bonds

Maynilad raising $365M for plan to upgrade pipes

JFC eyes 10,000 stores

But now, thus says the Lord who created you:
Fear not, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name and you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
In the rivers you shall not drown.
When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned;
The flames shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God, your Saviour.
Isaiah 43:1

In our hearts, there is pain for his passing.
In our lives, there will be grief for his absence,
and yet, there is immense joy and profound thanksgiving
for having been a part of his life,
and having been touched by his works and words,
wit and wisdom, values and vision.



ATTY. JOSE "Chit" DACANAY BALTAZAR

Has peacefully and gloriously journeyed back to his Creator on July 10, 2008 at age 78. Join us in prayer to rejoice his homecoming to God's heavenly kingdom.

Thank you.

Wife: ***[illegible] Martinez Baltazar***
Daughters and sons in law: ***[illegible] & [illegible] Villavicencio, [illegible] & [illegible] Fulgencio, Anna & [illegible] Narvasa.*** Sons: ***[illegible] & Antonio***

Grandchildren: ***[illegible]***

Great grandchildren: ***[illegible]***

Brother: ***[illegible]*** & sister: ***[illegible] Baltazar [illegible]***

His remains lie in state at
Christ the King Church, Green Meadows, QC. Chapels A & B,
Friday, July 11 to Sunday, July 13, 2008

Jose Rizal University, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Monday, July 14, 2008
Necrological Mass: Jose Rizal University, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
6pm, Monday, July 14, 2008
Holy Mass: Jose Rizal University, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
9am, Tuesday, July 15, 2008
Cremation, Loyola Memorial Crematorium, Guadalupe, Makati
11 am, Tuesday, July 15, 2008

In lieu of flowers, donations to the [illegible] Foundation would be greatly appreciated.

ROMY RONDOLO ROGADO, M.D.
U.S.T. – MEDICINE '[illegible]

[illegible]

"...absent from the body is to be present with the Lord."
[illegible]

AVELINA "VILING" CARBUNGCO CARPIO

([illegible] – July [illegible], 2008)

[illegible]

Her bereaved family: children **Agatha** and **Alberto**, **Bernardo** and **[illegible]**, **[illegible]** and **[illegible]** [illegible] **[illegible]** and **[illegible]**, **[illegible]** and **[illegible]**; grandchildren **[illegible]**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at [illegible], Quezon City.

Interment to be announced later.

In Loving Memory
On the 1st Death Anniversary
of Our Beloved

ELIZABETH MALAPITAN LUAKIAN
"Lilibeth"

[illegible]

The family, who misses her deeply, requests relatives, friends and the pious readers to join in prayers for her eternal repose. Masses will be offered at the following churches:

Church	Time
Sto. Domingo Convent Quezon Ave., Quezon City	5:45 AM / 7:15 AM
Santuario de San Jose Greenhills, Mandaluyong	6:00 AM
Christ the King Shrine E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City	6:00 AM
Sta. Rita De Cascia Parish [illegible], Quezon City	6:00 AM
The Apostle Church Tirad Ave., Quezon City	6:00 AM
Parish of the Lord of Divine Mercy [illegible] Village, Quezon City	6:00 AM
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish UP Village, Quezon City	6:00 AM
St. Peter Parish Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Grace Parish Grace Park, Caloocan City	6:00 AM / 6:00 PM
Parish of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary West Triangle, Quezon City	6:30 AM
National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes [illegible] St., Quezon City	6:30 AM
Santuario de San Antonio Parish Forbes Park, Makati City	7:00 AM
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine New Manila, Quezon City	7:00 AM
Chapel of the [illegible] Seminary [illegible] Park, Parañaque	7:00 AM
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene Quiapo, Manila	[illegible] PM

BUSINESS

A SPLENDID GROUNDBREAKING FOR SPLENDIDO TAAL TOWER I



Photo shows (L to R) Danilo Bautista, JAKA Chief Finance Officer; Percy Lukban, JAKA SVP-GM Property Division; Antonio Lim, JAKA Chief Operations Officer; Nestor Tan, Hi-Estate Realty Sales Associates Inc. (HERSAI) President; Mango Tan, SLRDI VP for Sales; Katrina Ponce-Corbo, JAKA President and CEO; Exequiel Robles, SLRDI President and CEO; Librando Robles, SLRDI VP Construction; and Buddy Encomado, SLRDI VP Corporate Communications.

It was a splendid afternoon of gaiety, music and old world Spanish Mediterranean charm that marked the lavish groundbreaking festivities of Splendido Tower I in Tagaytay City last May 24, 2008.

A collaboration of real estate giants Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc., state, the soon-to-be-constructed condominium units sit right at the heart of the vast, sprawling Splendido Taal Golf Course and offer a magnificent panoramic view of Taal Lake and Volcano and the majestic greens and fairways of the expansive Splendido acreage.

The Splendido Taal Tower I festivities started with a mid-day mass, after which quintessential host Johnny Litton led the guests to the groundbreaking site. The participating companies' top executives led by JAKA's Katrina Ponce-Corbo, Sta. Lucia's president Exequiel Robles and Hi-Estate's James Agalla poured the contents of the four giant vases, and also facilitated the burning of the time capsule.

This was followed by the blessing and a quick tour of the model units, after which the guests were treated to a sumptuous lunch buffet. After lunch, Johnny sauntered onstage once more and introduced the keynote speakers who talked about the many advantages and amenities of the Splendido Taal Tower project.

Capping the event were breathtaking musical performances by respected jazz singers Lynn Sherman, Cynthia Saunders and a fiery display of flamenco dance wizardry by the Ulani Remona Flamenco Dancers.

NFA, NEA, 4 gov't firms up for restructuring

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY and the National Electrification Administration lead the list of six government owned and controlled corporations that are up for financial restructuring in a bid to keep the public sector's fiscal position under control.

The others are the Philippine National Railways (PNR), National Development Co. (NDC), Light Railways Transit Administration (LRTA) and Home Guaranty Corp. (HGC), according to the Cabinet-level Development Budget Coordination Committee.

Sources at the inter-agency fiscal planning group said the financial restructuring of these firms was being prioritized as part of the government's cost-cutting measures.

The consolidated public sector posted a surplus of P16.4 billion last year, but there are fears that this may slide to a deficit as the country is facing a more challenging environment given skyrocketing food and fuel prices.

Gov't moves to protect fiscal position

In previous years, the biggest contributor to the consolidated public sector deficit was the National Power Corp.

But with the privatization of state-owned power assets in the last few years, Napocor is no longer causing the public sector to post a huge deficit.

Recently, the biggest financial drag has been the NFA, the government agency in charge of importing rice, managing stocks and stabilizing prices and regulating rice trading.

The government reimburses the NFA for the full amount of the import duty through a tax subsidy enabling the agency to sell rice at a lower price.

The PNR, meanwhile, operates 479 kilometers of long distance train service in the country, while the LRTA is responsible for the construction, operation, maintenance and/or lease of light railway transit systems.

The NDC, an attached agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, is the government's investment arm.

It manages some P4.6 billion in investments, which are considered vital to the government's structural reforms and economic policies.

The NEA supports the government's rural electrification efforts through the organization and development of cooperatives.

The HGC is the lone government institution that guarantees against credit risks in housing.

Its guarantee covers both the housing loans of home buyers and those of the subdivision developers.

It is one of the five key shelter agencies supervised by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC).



PROPERTY

Editor: Cesar D. Mangawang



Should one buy property now to beat impending price increases?



Real estate realities

Best time to buy

Better stored value



ROMANTIC GONDOLA RIDE

Return to the water

LIVING ARCHITECTURE



Marcus de Guzman Jr

Major element

Technology



EXCHANGE REGENCY

Enjoying life at center of everything



At the center of everything

Types of condo units

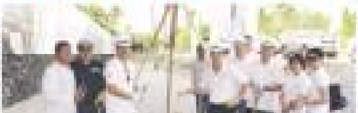


Move in to your dream home at Terrassa

Home models

Architectural theme

Vibrant community soon to rise in Batangas



Unique facets

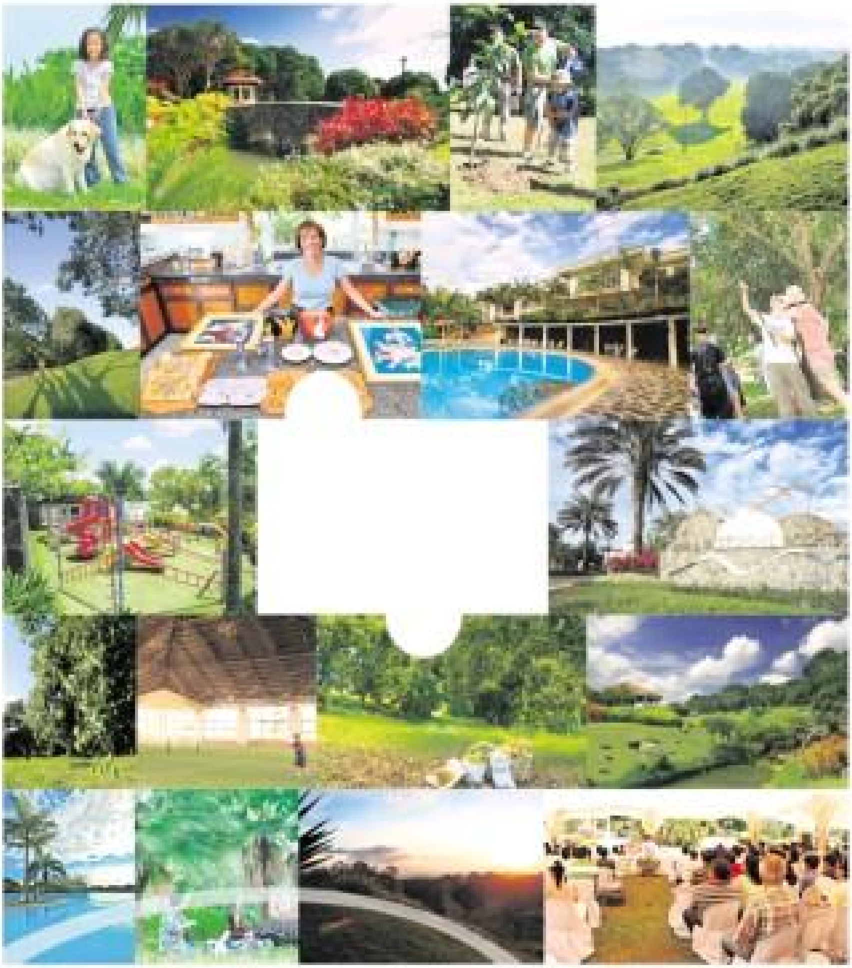


Features and amenities

How to sell the $27-B Fil-Am market

Network of contacts

AyalaLand Premier



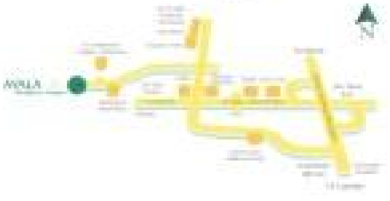
Complete the picture.



Ayala Westgrove Heights is Ayala Land Premier's pioneering community in the South. In the same heritage of such well-known villages as Ayala Alabang, it is now a thriving and bustling community that will soon reach full development in its last few phases.

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Finding God and the devil in the details



DESIGN DIMENSIONS







CAREFUL placement of ...

Detail-driven profession

Beyond what is visual

Critical milestones

Megaworld unveils The Venice

Over 20 various amenities

Romantic gondola ride

Super LifeStyle

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan · Subsection Editor Pam Pastor



SUPER EXCLUSIVE

Heath Ledger's Joker has the last laugh

There's buzz about a possible Oscar nomination for the late actor's turn in the new Batman movie

By Ruel S. De Vera

LOS ANGELES—PERHAPS BEcause he was so good-looking, Heath Ledger had always worked hard to convince people he was much more than a pretty face. It is tragic that the best proof of his immense acting prowess will go on display long after his death last January of a drug overdose.

His performance in "The Dark Knight" is triumphant in every way. "He does a fantastic, superb, iconic villain," Christian Bale says of Ledger's Joker. "If Chris (Nolan) decides to make a third movie, I don't know how the hell he's going to have a superior villain to what he created as the Joker. It's wonderful to see when an actor just completely immerses himself in a role. He's portrayed it in a way that nobody's ever seen before. I do think it's going to be remembered for the ages. It's a wonderful thing to have the pleasure of working opposite him and seeing the satisfaction he was getting from playing the Joker."

The Perth, Australia native first got noticed in 1999's "10 Things I Hate About You" and quickly drew notice for his movie-star features, playing leading men in "A Knight's Tale" and "Casanova." But Ledger took risks with his acting, seeking edgier parts in the Bob Dylan biopic "I'm Not There," and the skating flick "Lords of Dogtown."

It was his performance as the anguished cowboy Ennis in 2005's "Brokeback Mountain" that garnered him an Oscar nomination.

Unusual choice

Yet when Ledger was first cast as the Joker, it seemed an unusual choice. Producer Emma Thomas says they "always knew that would be the biggest challenge in casting the film, because it's such an iconic character and we knew we had to have somebody who could obliterate any previous iteration of the character."

Nolan had known Ledger for a while. "I had met with Heath several times over the years for different projects and nothing had come of it, but we had wanted to work together," the director recalls.

"He heard we were doing the Joker for this film and before we even had a script, he met with me and explained he wanted to do it. We talked about what that character would be in this telling of the film. We talked about the character as a force of anarchy, as somebody devoted to chaos. Heath completely got that and he very clearly had the confidence to do it. He took a leap of faith in us."

The film's writers saw the Joker as the ultimate Batman nemesis, because of what makes them different.

"I don't think he has a weakness. There are certain points in the movie where even if the Joker dies, I don't think he cares," David Goyer answers. "Maybe you can make the case that he has one weakness, and that's his affection for Batman," Jonathan Nolan notes. Goyer adds, "His other weakness is that he gets bored."

Ledger's co-stars could feel that Ledger was on a roll. "I could tell as soon as I began to work with him that he was in a place that's very rare and unusual even for the most talented and experienced actors, where he had hit a stride where he was absolutely free," Maggie Gyllenhaal says. "Working with someone in that place is so fun because they'll take anything you give them and throw anything at you, and that's what you always want."

Gary Oldman concurs: "I had a great time working with Heath. He's amazing in the film. You felt that you were really in the company of something special in this film, and I think his work will be really celebrated."

"It was just breathtaking to watch," says Nolan.

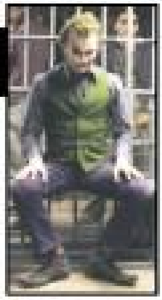
Thomas understands that Ledger's performance will be compared to that of Jack Nicholson in "Batman," as directed by Tim Burton.

"They're completely unlike each other in every way," she says. "The obvious thing to say is that Jack Nicholson's Joker is [illegible], but the incredible thing that Heath did

PAGE C4

SUPER EXCLUSIVE

In darkest 'Knight'

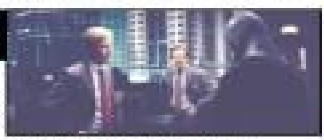


As complex as it is long, 'The Dark Knight' is a superior sequel that changes Batman forever

By Ruel S. De Vera

Casting the Bat

The venerable Gary Oldman says he wants to do comedy



THE DARK KNIGHT. A breathtaking action masterpiece

Christian Bale (Bruce Wayne/Batman)

Maggie Gyllenhaal (Rachel Dawes)

Gary Oldman (Lt. Jim Gordon)



Aaron Eckhart (Harvey Dent/Two-Face)

Heath Ledger's Joker has the last laugh

Good time

Bat trivia



[illegible]

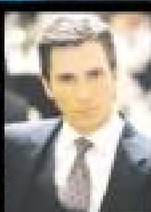
Building a Better Batman

In returning to Gotham City, the Batman braintrust journeyed across the world and deep into the Batman mythology to deliver a hero's world under siege

By Ruel S. De Vera

[illegible]





AARON ECKHART as Harvey Dent

[illegible]

No gratuitous violence

[illegible]

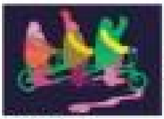
Serious crime movie

[illegible]

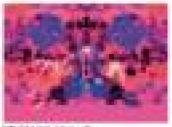
In the land of Kustaa



"CAPTAIN"



"BLOOD Brothers"



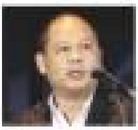
"SHIBUYA Nights"



"FORBIDDEN Forest"

Offpiste in Manila

Inferiority complex



Spotted: Ray-Ban Strutting in Hollywood



2bU LIFESTYLE
Editor: Thelma Sioson San Juan
Subsection Editor: Pam Pastor

'Vampire' mania



Sure, fans love Harry Potter. But they don't bombard his MySpace site with messages begging him to bite them

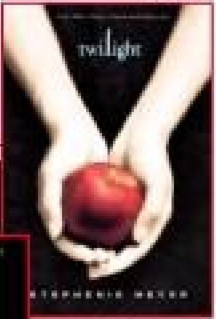
By Pam Pastor

THERE IS ONE SCENE you will not read in any J.K. Rowling book—how a young vampire sank his teeth into Harry Potter's neck.

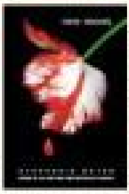
But it happened, and the young vampire's name is Edward Cullen, the creation of Stephenie Meyer, author of "The Twilight Saga."

The vampire-wizard face-off did not take place in the grounds of Hogwarts. It happened on the American book charts, two and a half weeks after Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows was released, when Eclipse, the third book in The Twilight Saga, went straight to number one, knocking Harry off the top spot.

Meyer has since sold over seven million copies of her books, has stayed on the New York Times Best Seller list for 143 weeks in total, has had her work translated into 20 languages and has been given countless honors, from an American Library Association's Top Ten Best Books for Young Adults to Publisher's Weekly Best Book of the Year and Amazon.com's Best Book of the Decade.









BITING BOOKS: Stephenie Meyer's Twilight Saga

Dream

It is hard to believe this literary phenomenon just started with a dream.

In 2003, Meyer had a dream about a girl and a vampire talking in a meadow. This dream, which, according to her Amazon.com Q&A, she faithfully transcribed, became chapter 13 of her first book.

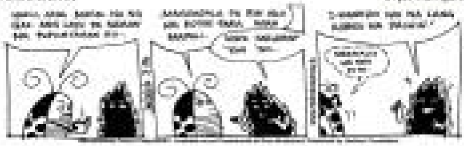
But Meyer did not set out to write a book. She wasn't even a writer; she was a housewife and a mother of three kids. She said she just wanted to see what happened next.

When Meyer started writing, she couldn't stop. Encouraged by her sister who read the book chapter by chapter as Meyer wrote it, she soon had 130,000 words which she sent off to literary agents.

Twilight hit the shelves in 2005 and instantly became a huge hit. Its sequels, New Moon and Eclipse, released in yearly intervals, have had the same success. And there is no doubt that the final book in the saga, Breaking Dawn, which will arrive in bookstores this August, will enjoy the same fevered reception from fans.

The book hasn't been released yet, but it's already number two on Amazon.com's best-seller list, where it is available for pre-order. (Twilight is number 3, Eclipse is number 9 and

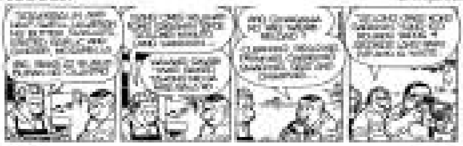
VAMPIRE, C2







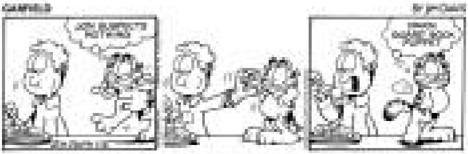
PUGAD BABOY

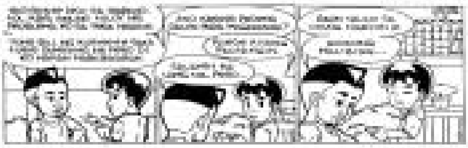


DIVINE COMEDY

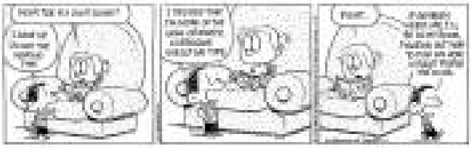


GARFIELD





BABY BLUES





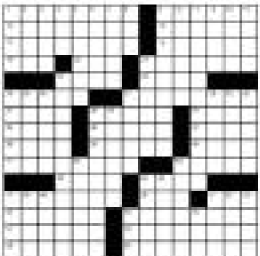
LOVEKNOTS



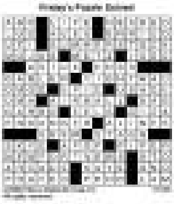




DAILY CROSSWORD



Friday's Puzzle Solved



HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

				2	1			
	2	6				7	5	
	3						8	
9				4				
2			5		9			1
				3				5
	4						7	
	8	5				3	6	
			8	7				

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Answer to previous puzzle





BELLA'S official MySpace page



TEENAGE girls flood Edward's MySpace page with messages everyday

Vegetarian vampires

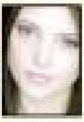
Tween Anne Rice

Far from over

Twilight on the big screen

Edward Cullen, Bella Swan, Jacob Black—who's playing who and what fans think

Alice Cullen



Emmett Cullen



Rosalie Hale





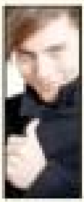
Edward Cullen



Bella Swan

'Twilight' petition

Jasper Hale



Esme Cullen



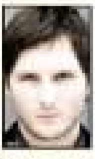
Jacob Black



Mike Newton



Carlisle Cullen



'High School' on ice

SKATING action at the Araneta Coliseum

Love it or hate it, either way, you can't escape it.



UAAP Updates

The opening weekend

By Patrick Leonard M. Mayo
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Ernie Sarmiento


ANDREA Melly and Joy Narvez cheer for the Green Archers


SIMON Atkins of La Salle battles for the loose ball against Chris Tiu of Ateneo


KRISTINA Garcia and Annie Calvo root for Ateneo


ATENEO rookie American Vince Burke

A BREATHTAKING OPENING NUMber, a year-long losing streak broken and a storied rivalry renewed are just some of the highlights in the opening weekend of the 71st Season of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) which opened last weekend at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Filipiniana-inspired opening ceremonies of host school the University of the Philippines kept the fans glued on their seats in amazement. The Maroon performers which included the cheerdance champions the UP Pep Squad represented the participating schools as dances and traditional Filipino games like sambong-preso and patintero, among others, were depicted.

The University of Santo Tomas was also cited for being the over-all champion in the seniors and juniors division of the season 70.

Tamaraws get first win

And now for the hoop action, the first game pitted a dangerous FEU Tamaraws squad against a rebuilt Adamson Falcons team. The game was tightly contested until the final minutes when the Falcons seemed to have grabbed control of the game against the more experienced Tamaraws.

[illegible]

Warriors prevail over Tigers

[illegible]

Mania in the UA

[illegible]

UP breaks drought

[illegible]

No ID, no play

[illegible]

Eagles soar over the Archers

[illegible]

Email the author at [illegible]@yahoo.com.



2bU LIFESTYLE



JOLO'S Multiply theme has been used by countless people worldwide



Multiply guy

Click on this: there's a Multiply theme designed by a young Filipino web and graphic designer

By Ron Cruz and [illegible]

THE NEXT TIME YOU DECIDE to change your Multiply theme, scroll down and look at the template Jeilads—that template was created by a young graphic designer from Makati.

In 2005, [illegible] of Multiply came across Jolo [illegible] blog and liked his design. "He e-mailed and asked me if they can use my design as a working Multiply theme."

Jolo then reworked the design to make it compatible with Multiply's theme system. Since then, countless people from around the world have used Jeilads as their Multiply design. "I'm glad and proud that they like my theme, especially when I see that they're Filipinos. I love it when people customize my theme."

Memorable creations

That Multiply theme isn't Jolo's only creation. The 23-year-old designer created the [illegible] 2007 campaign website and The Shopify theme as some of his most memorable creations. "[illegible] gave my partner and I creative freedom while The Shopify Project has given me clients abroad."

Jolo, who has an International Advanced Diploma in Computing from Informatics and who studied Enterprise & Mobile Development on Java Technologies at NIIT, has always wanted to be a designer. "I love solving things, building things and being creative."

This self-declared geek traces his design roots to his days in high school. "I loved the [illegible] of computer programs. I was also active in design contests. But it was in college where my enthusiasm for design and geekiness collided. That's when I fell in love with building and designing web pages."

Start-up company

Jolo began as an entry-level designer for a small advertising agency before moving to a corporate domestic merchandising agency as a junior graphic and web designer. Since then, he co-founded his own start-up design company Backup Inc. where he works as the visual design lead. The company's clients are mostly based in the United States and Europe. "We built a backup application for Mac called [illegible] and we're currently working on [illegible]—a "sharing & syncing" application integrated on OS (Windows and Mac) and iPhone."

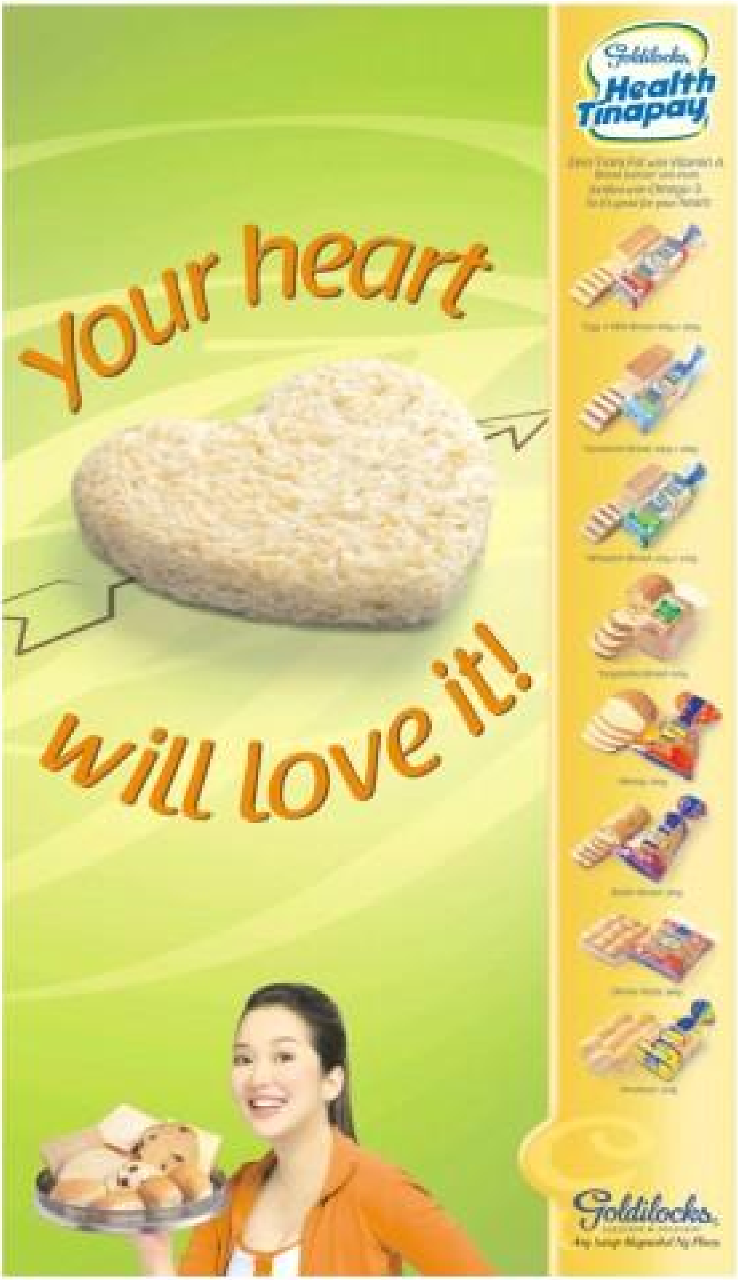
Despite being currently busy with Backup Inc.'s projects, he also helps his friends build websites. "I'm working on a toy camera shop website and a school website. I love to work on both 'cause they're giving me creative freedom to infuse my own ideas and at the same time I get to learn a lot of technical programming and design stuff from these collaborations."

Jolo describes himself as a minimalist and says he finds inspiration in simple things. "I get inspired by IKEA, Muji, Apple, Google, [illegible] products, all the stuff in [illegible].com and [illegible].com. I love them."

Loving the job

There's no doubt that Jolo loves his job. He says that the best part is "meeting people and building something," Jolo adds. "I

[illegible]



A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Where to Stop Where to Go

Provincial Hotels Directory

A new sun rises in Mandaluyong



Café Jeepney goes Kapampangan



SUNDAY BRUNCH WITH THE CINDERELLA STARS

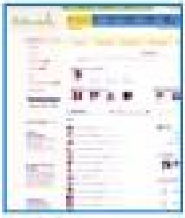


A perfect weekend at City Garden Hotel Makati

Shangri-la at The Fort will open in 2012

Multiply guy













Go forth and multiply

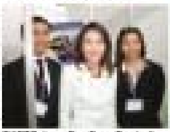
Pinoys are the most active users of social networks

Tours, Leisure & Chow



WATERFRONT MANILA PAVILION'S CULINARY DUO BAGS TOP MAFBEX HONORS

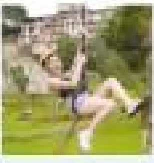
Quantum Hotels and Resorts shines at the PITF





CINNABAR ROLLS OUT 'COCKTAIL CULTURE'

CALIRAYA RE-CREATION CENTER NEW FLY PINOY ZIPCORD RIDE





Fun and adventure at Microtel Luisita, Tarlac

Ateneo fashion flair

By [illegible]
YS Correspondent
Photos by [illegible]

WHEN ASKED WHAT defines their style, the girls in Ateneo de Manila University seem to agree on one thing: comfort above everything else. "My clothes should always be stylish but comfy," says 18-year-old Victoria Reyes, a Communications Technology senior.

[illegible]



[illegible]



[illegible]



[illegible]



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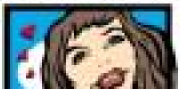


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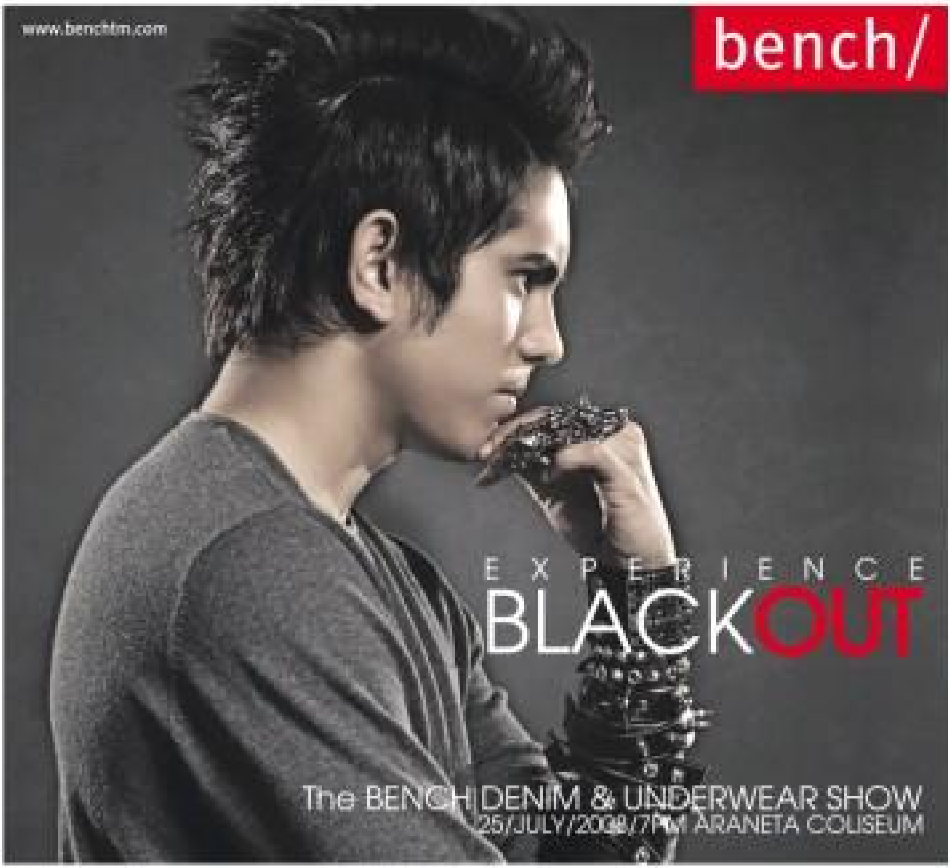


[illegible]

What do I do with my uber-jealous GF?



[illegible]



SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre

Pierce Brosnan: 'There's only one James Bond—Connery'





ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

ATHENS, GREECE—"I think Daniel Craig is a brilliant James Bond," Pierce Brosnan, former 007, declared when a reporter asked him to comment on some people's opinion that Craig is the second-best James Bond actor, while Sean Connery is the all-time best to have played Ian Fleming's super agent.

[illegible]

Challenge

[illegible]

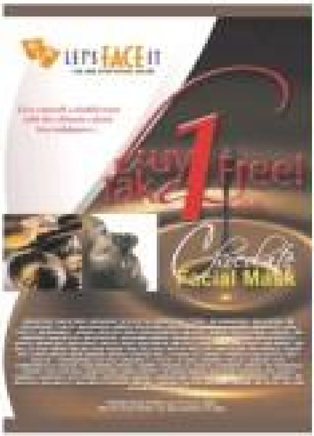
Sweet irony

[illegible]

Dance numbers

[illegible]

PIERCE P4







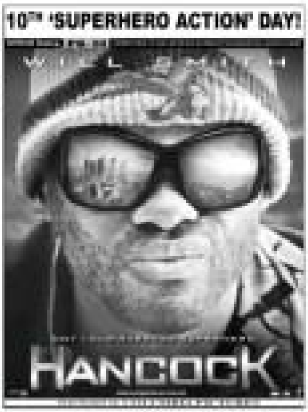






Integrated workshop starts July 14









AFFLECK. His edge over other celebrities comes from his triple talents.

Advantage

Reputation

Where's the party?

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

Better option

Personal enhancement series



PIMENTEL AND HERNANDEZ: Hold lecture series at AIM

STREET SMART



Mandy Navasero

IVA CUSTODIO Pimentel is more popularly known in the fashion and advertising industry as Ning Pimentel. She is the doting mother of young actors, Mel Lorenzo, TV ad model, Marlon, and 7-year-old Diego.

Since 1995, she has been facilitating personality developments lectures for clients from the banking, telecommunications, medical and pharmaceutical industries.

She began modeling in 1977, endorsing products such as Caltrop, Coca-Cola, Palmolive shampoo, Swiss A and Globe. Her latest endorsement is for Johnson & Johnson's family soap.

The stunning Filipina beauty represented the country in the Mrs. World Beauty Pageant in Honolulu in 1988. In 1998, she began producing and directing special events in Dubai. She has recently gone back to school, taking Visual Communications at UP.

Drama series

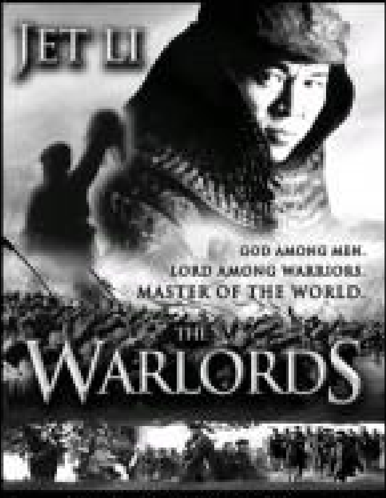
As a performer, Ning acted alongside Christopher de Leon in the TV drama series, "Maging Sino Ka Man."

Her next lecture series on Personality Enhancement will be on Sept. 12, 13, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) in Legaspi Village, Makati City. She will share the stage with business partner, Cynthia Hernandez—the first Filipina to graduate with excellence at Temple University in Philadelphia—who will talk about Street Management.

The back-to-back workshop is open to event organizers, as well as people who'd like to enhance themselves in the corporate world. Call 0918 321-4086, or e-mail cynthiahernandez@yahoo.com.

E-mail: mandynavasero@yahoo.com.









Action, historical drama converge in Jet Li's latest starrer





Lyricism

Conflicting desires

Pierce Brosnan...

Image

Wonderful dad

IN THIS ISSUE
- **Meryl Streep glows** in latest thespic milestone /G4

SATURDAY Special

Why Will Smith is a winner



SMITH. Perfect choice to portray Barack Obama.

By Hector U. Tarre

I remember Hollywood at its best



KELLY: Classic beauty and talent.

By Bobo Cornasso



Superhero flick transcends formula

Nescafé

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2008

SATURDAY*Special*

G1

Readers react

By Hector U. Tarra

IT'S GREAT TO SEE that more viewers and readers are expressing their opinions about a wide number of show biz topics, productions, personalities and problems. Only when producers and performers realize that their audience no longer tolerates shoddy or irresponsible work will our viewing and listening options really improve.

So, keep those letters, phone calls and e-mails coming, folks, and make sure they reach the decision makers at our TV stations and production houses.

Two forms

[illegible]

AT THE CINEMAS

Cinema							
GLORIETTA 1	1 WANTED	2 JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH	3 WARLORDS	4 HANCOCK			
GLORIETTA 4	1 WARLORDS	2 HANCOCK	3 MAMMA MIA	4 GET SMART	5 MY MONSTER MOM	6 JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH	7 WANTED
GREENBELT 1	1 HANCOCK	2 MAMMA MIA					
GREENBELT 3	1 JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH	2 MAMMA MIA	3 WANTED	4 HANCOCK	5 WARLORDS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH	2 MAMMA MIA	3 WARLORDS	4 WANTED	5 HANCOCK		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH	2 MAMMA MIA	3 WARLORDS	4 HANCOCK			
MARKET! MARKET!	1 JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH	2 HANCOCK	3 WANTED	4 MAMMA MIA	5 WARLORDS		
TRINOMA	1 MY MONSTER MOM	2 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	3 WANTED	4 HANCOCK	5 WARLORDS	6 MAMMA MIA	7 JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH

AT THE MALLS

Mall	Events
Glorietta	[illegible]
Greenbelt	[illegible]
Alabang Town Center	[illegible]
Ayala Center Cebu	[illegible]
Market! Market!	[illegible]
Ayala Museum	[illegible]
TriNoma	[illegible]

NOW SHOWING

Oscar-bound Streep glows in latest thespic milestone

"Mamma Mia!"
D: Phyllida Lloyd
S: Meryl Streep and Pierce Brosnan



STREEP: Sensational performance.

HD F900 CAMERA



Academy award-winning director and cinematographer James Cameron.

Nescafé Soundskool gives budding musicians a great head start

MONTAGE



Sun Cellular and JB Music

Superhero flick . . .

Mission

Screen presence

Readers react

More comebacks

Indie issues

Down on Billy